

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

EARNSHAW et al

Atty. Ref.: 550-506; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. (Contin. of 09/328,420) Group: 2128

Filed: January 5, 2004

Examiner:

For: MODELING INTEGRATED CIRCUITS

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January 5, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows: